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**3 BACKGROUND/HISTORY OF FIREARMS IDENTIFICATION AND CURRENT TRENDS**

**3.1 Assignments**

3.1.1 Define the following terms:

- Firearm identification
- Ballistics

**(Use Training Assignment #1 to complete this objective.)**

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Training Officers

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Date

3.1.2 Read the applicable sections from the basic references and prepare a report on the history, principles, evolution and scope of firearms identification in its broadest sense. Support the report by data accumulated in the trainee notebook. Discuss this with the Training Officer from the section who will review this report.

**(Use Training Assignment #1 and #2 to complete this objective.)**

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Training Officer

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Date

3.1.3 Formulate an answer to the following questions:

- Is the Forensic Science Discipline of Firearm and Toolmark Identification an art or science?
- What are the types of conclusions that can be reached in firearm identification comparisons?
- What is the basis for each of the above conclusions?
- Is it possible for experts in the Forensic Science Discipline of Firearm and Toolmark Identification to disagree regarding their conclusions?
- Why or Why Not?
- How does "probability" relate to firearm identification?

**(Use Training Assignment #2 to complete this objective.)**

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Training Officer

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Date

3.1.4 Be familiar with the "Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners" (AFTE), to include its history, current officers, criteria for membership, committees, the AFTE glossary and the AFTE journal and be able to discuss these topics.

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Training Officer

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Date

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<p>3.1.5 Discuss with system operators the status of the ongoing research initiatives to link shootings using computer imagery such as NIBIN (National Integrated Ballistics Information Network-formerly DRUGFIRE and IBIS). Prepare a report on this system.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Training Officer Date</p> <p>3.1.6 Visit and tour the various laboratories that provide firearms and toolmark examinations within the region. Coordinate this visit with your Training Officer.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Training Officer Date</p> <p>3.1.7 Become knowledgeable about the proficiency-testing program administered by the outside independent testing services. Particularly be aware of testing and the results of testing conducted within the field of firearms and toolmark identification by this organization. Discuss this with the Training Officer.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Training Officer Date</p> <p>3.1.8 Be able to demonstrate a practical working knowledge of firearm terminology using the <u>AFTE Glossary</u> as the standard.</p> <p><b>(Use Training Assignment #4 and #5 to complete this objective.)</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>Training Officer Date</p> <p>3.1.9 Select a topic for a research project to be completed during your training period. Obtain approval from the Training Officer before initiation of the project. This project should contribute to the overall fund of information in the field of firearm identification. These results will be shared with the section upon completion. In addition, the results should be formatted for publication in the AFTE Journal and for presentation at an AFTE Meeting.</p> <p><b>(Use Training Assignment #3 to begin this objective.)</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>Training Officer Date</p>	
<p><b>3.2 Reference Materials</b></p> <p>The following reference materials serve several purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to provide a wider range of additional resources</li> <li>• to provide reference materials for your future professional use</li> <li>• to allow you to gain additional depth in particular subject areas</li> </ul>	

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<p>3.2.1 Books</p> <p>Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners Standardization Committee, <u>Glossary of the Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners</u>, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, Available Business Printing, Inc., Chicago, 1994.</p> <p>Burrard, G., <u>The Identification of Firearms and Forensic Ballistics</u>, 1st edition, Charles Scribner Sons, NY, 1934, revised edition, A.S. Barnes &amp; Co., NY, 1964.</p> <p>Davis, J.E., <u>An Introduction to Tool Marks, Firearms and the Striagraph</u>, Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, IL, 1958.</p> <p>Gunther, J.D., and Gunther, C.O., <u>The Identification of Firearms</u>, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York, 1935.</p> <p>Hatcher, J.S., <u>Hatcher's Notebook</u>, Military Service Publishing Company, Harrisburg, PA, 1947.</p> <p>---. <u>Firearms Investigation, Identification and Evidence</u>, and <u>Textbook of Pistols and Revolvers</u>, Small Arms Publishing Company, Plantersville, SC, 1946.</p> <p>Hatcher, J.S., Jury, F.J. and Weller, J., <u>Firearms Investigation, Identification and Evidence</u>, 2nd edition, Stackpole Books, Harrisburg, PA, 1957.</p> <p>Himmelwright, A.L.A., "Forensic or Legal Ballistics" in <u>Pistol and Revolver Shooting</u>, The Macmillan Company, NY, 1928.</p> <p>Heard, B.E., <u>Handbook of Firearms and Ballistics: Examining and Interpreting Forensic Evidence</u>, John Wiley &amp; Sons, New York, 1997.</p> <p>Mathews, J.H., <u>Firearms Identification</u>, Volumes I - III, Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, IL, 1962.</p> <p><u>NRA Firearms Fact Book</u>, 3rd edition, National Rifle Association, Fairfax, VA, 1989.</p> <p>Rowe, W. H., "Firearms Identification", <u>Forensic Science Handbook</u>, Vol. II, 1988, Saferstein, R. (Ed.), Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, NJ, pp. 393 – 461</p> <p>3.2.2 AFTE Journal</p> <p>AFTE Criteria For Identification Committee Report, "Theory of Identification, Range of Stria Comparison Reports and Modified Glossary Definitions", 1992; 24(3)</p> <p>Barrett, M.R., "Microchip and the Bullet: A Vision of the Future, 1991; 23(3): 876-883.</p> <p>Bates, J.S., "Investigation of the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy," 1981; 13(1):64.</p> <p>Berg, S.O., "Drama of Forensic Ballistics," 1979; 11(3):44.</p> <p>---. "Firearms Evidence and the Kennedy Assassination," 1970; 2(2):2-3.</p> <p>Beck, R., "Alexander von Inostranzeff and the Technical Development of Optical Comparison Systems," 1989; 21(1):67-72.</p>	

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